

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic module for live connection
2 with a computer system, comprising:
4 a power line for receiving power from the computer system and powering a load
6 of the electronic module;
8 a ground line;
a switch element coupled to said power line and said ground line between said
power line and the load, wherein said switch element disables said power line until said
ground line is coupled to a ground of the computer system.

2. (Original) The electronic module of claim 1, further comprising:
4 a power connector for coupling said power line to the computer system;
6 a ground connector for coupling said ground line to the computer system; and
a input/output connector for coupling said input/output line to the computer
system;
6 wherein said connectors have substantially uniform lengths.

3. (Currently Amended) The electronic module of claim 2, wherein
2 said switch element is a solid-state switch comprising:
4 a first source coupled to said power connector;
6 a first gate coupled to said ground line; and
a first drain coupled to the load;
wherein the solid-state switch is non-conducting until said ground line is coupled
to a ground reference of the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic module with non-staggered
2 connectors, comprising:
4 a power connector configured to couple a first load internal circuit of the
electronic module to an interface power source;

6 a ground connector configured to couple a ground line of the electronic module to
the interface; and
7
8 a switch, positioned inline between said power connector and said first load,
wherein said switch is configured to electrically isolate said first load internal circuit until
said ground connector is coupled to the interface;
9
10 wherein each of said power connector and said ground connector are of
substantially uniform lengths.

5. (Original) The electronic module of claim 4, further comprising:
2 an input/output connector configured to couple an input/output line of the
electronic module to the interface;
4 wherein said input/output connector is of said uniform length.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic module of claim 4, further
2 comprising:
4 a logic voltage connector configured to couple a second load internal circuit of the
electronic module to the interface;
wherein said logic voltage connector is of said uniform length.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ensuring multiple electrical
2 connections are completed to an interface module in a predetermined order, comprising:
3 a gate configured to be coupled to a ground reference of the interface module;
4 a source configured to be coupled to a voltage source of the interface module; and

1 a drain coupled to a load;
6 wherein the apparatus is positioned inline electrically between the voltage source
and the load; and
8 wherein the apparatus is non-conducting, and said drain is isolated from said
source, until said gate is coupled to the ground reference.

12. (Currently Amended) A computing device, comprising:
2 a processor;
4 a memory; and
a hot swappable component, comprising:
6 a power input configured to receive power, for powering a component
load, from the computing device through a power connector;
8 a ground configured to receive a ground reference from the computing
device through a ground connector; and
10 a switch configured to isolate said power input from the a-component load
until said ground is coupled to the ground reference;
12 wherein said switch is positioned between said power input and the
component load.

13. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said power
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially identical lengths.

14. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot
2 swappable component further comprises:
4 an input/output line configured to provide information from the component to the
computing device through an input/output connector;
6 wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said input/output
connector are of substantially identical lengths.

15. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot
2 swappable component further comprises:

a logic voltage input configured to receive logic voltage from the computing device through a logic voltage connector;

wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said logic voltage connector are of substantially identical lengths.

16. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said switch is a
2 field effect transistor comprising:

4 a gate configured to be coupled to the ground reference;
a source configured to be coupled to the power input; and
a drain coupled to the component load;
6 wherein said field effect transistor is non-conducting until
the ground reference.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a hot swappable
2 module to an interface of a computing device, comprising:

- 4 receiving a first voltage from the computing device through a first voltage connector of the module, wherein said first voltage connector is electrically separated from a load of the module by a switch;
- 6 receiving a ground reference from the computing device through a ground connector of the module;
- 8 until said ground reference is received, isolating said first voltage connector from the a load of the module; and
- 10 when said ground reference is received, enabling electrical conductivity between said first voltage connector and the load.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said first voltage
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially the same length.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a
2 digital input/output connection from the computing device through an input/output
connector.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a
2 second voltage from the computing device through a second voltage connector of the
module.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein one of said first voltage
2 and said second voltage is Vcc.
